

1. What was / has been your occupation before entering politics?

I work for a large shipping company. I am a working class guy who believes that our government should have more working class representation.

2. Do you live in the riding and, if so, how long has it been your home?

The main town where my day to day life takes place is Alexandria. I live on a farm just outside the riding 8km from Glen Robertson.

3. What has been your main involvement with your community outside of work (volunteer activities, etc.)?

I have been actively volunteering my whole life, living on a farm among farmers my favourite thing to do is help my neighbours with the various tasks that come up regularly as nothing to me beats direct community.

4. In your life what event, or book, or speech, or song or even TV show has made the biggest impression on you and your political thinking? Why?

I have read countless books by a variety of political thinkers, and have taken a lot from them but to answer this question honestly I have to go back to my formative years growing up in my parents pizzeria in a blue collar industrial town.

The clientele was mainly workers who worked in the various factories and they would sit and talk about the bread and butter issues that they faced. I saw the class struggle very vividly in those conversations and I saw how with consecutive trade deals that didn't consider these people the factories began to close and my parents lost their business because people stopped eating out.

I saw first hand how government served the rich and how working people were disposable labour and for all the rhetoric about the "middle class" as long as corporations bottom lines were healthy the governing party be it Conservative or Liberal were willing to sell working people out.

5. What previous politician, (alive or dead, but not currently in parliament) is a role model for you?

Tommy Douglas and Svend Robinson are two of my biggest role models. Both fought tirelessly for the working class of this country, against strong opposition. I am so happy to see Svend making his return to politics, and to get the chance to contest this election alongside him.

When I made the decision to run I reached out to him and he gave me the gift of a phone call which was an incredible experience, he was able to give me such incredible advice, namely that it is important to fight for what you believe in unwaveringly even and especially when it ruffles feathers.

6. What policy in your party's platform do you think matters most to the people in your riding?

This is dairy country and I am proud of that, protecting supply management is incredibly important. With bad trade deal after bad trade deal we have seen supply management eroded under Conservative and Liberal governments that put foreign interests and corporate needs ahead of the farmers who work hard to produce the food that we eat.

An NDP government will never sign a trade deal that doesn't put the hard working people in our agricultural and manufacturing sectors first.

7. Recent polls suggest many Canadians are disillusioned with politics. If elected, what would you do to address those concerns?

I am disillusioned with politics and with politicians and that is why I am running for office. When we have two parties taking turns looking out for the interests of the wealthiest among us and large corporations at the expense of working class people it is easy to feel as though politicians do not serve you.

I am a working class guy running to represent working people in Ottawa (including the many working people whose labour goes unpaid). I will fight for people like me and show with action what real representative democracy is supposed to look like.